

**SOUTHERN MARYLAND WOOD TREATING SITE**  
**Hollywood, Maryland**  
**(National Priorities List Site)**  
**MD-135**

**Site Location**

The abandoned Southern Maryland Wood Treating (SMWT) site occupies 25 acres in the northwestern portion of a 94-acre parcel near Hollywood, St. Mary's County, Maryland. Residential, agricultural and wooded tracts of land bound the site. Site drainage flows into two tributaries that combine to form Old Tom's Run, which flows from the site and eventually reaches Breton Bay and the Potomac River.

**Site History**

The SMWT site operated as a wood treating facility from 1965 to 1978. L.A. Clarke and Sons, Inc. purchased the facility from the original owner in 1975. Approximately four acres of the site were used as the process area during the industrial wood treating operations. Processed wood was pressure treated with creosote and pentachlorophenol. Wastes were disposed on-site in six unlined lagoons.

As a result of such disposal practices, on-site soils and groundwater beneath the lagoons became contaminated. Additionally, sediments in Old Tom's Run were also contaminated. Contaminants of concern were polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and pentachlorophenol along with low concentrations of the less toxic dioxin congeners in on-site tanks.

**Environmental Investigations and Actions**

L.A. Clarke and Sons, Inc. filed for bankruptcy and abandoned the SMWT site. No financially viable responsible parties were identified, and the investigation and cleanup activities were conducted with Superfund cleanup funds. Cleanup of the abandoned National Priorities List (NPL) site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) required the State to pay 10% of the remedial action costs and the Federal government to pay the remainder.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a removal action in March 1985 and excavated 1,400 cubic yards of contaminated sediments from the on-site pond. The sediments were stabilized with cement kiln dust and encapsulated on-site awaiting final treatment. The EPA listed the site on the NPL on June 10, 1986.

EPA completed a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) in May 1998 and issued a Record of Decision (ROD) on June 29, 1988. The 1988 ROD called for the construction of a subsurface barrier wall around the former lagoon area, excavation and on-site incineration of contaminated soil and pumping and treatment of contaminated groundwater. Construction of the subsurface barrier (sheet pile wall) was completed in November of 1990. By May 1992, design of the incinerator and the groundwater treatment system were 95% complete. At that point, local citizens and local government entities expressed opposition to an on-site incinerator. The design work was suspended and EPA conducted a Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) to reevaluate the remedy.

## MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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### Waste Management Administration • Environmental Restoration & Redevelopment Program

In June 1993, a second removal action was initiated. This action included the demolition of several buildings that were in danger of collapse; the removal and off-site disposal of liquid and solid waste in numerous tanks and retorts; maintaining the pile of previously excavated and stabilized sediment; the construction of an underflow dam to reduce the amount of contaminated material migrating from the on-site pond into the west tributary stream; the construction of a trench upgradient of the pond to collect contaminated groundwater; and the construction of a water treatment facility. The water treatment plant became fully operational in 1995.

The FFS was completed in February 1995. Based on the FFS, the EPA issued a ROD on September 8, 1995, which revised the remedy from incineration to thermal desorption. This remedy was accepted by the community. The final Remedial Action (RA) began in October 1997. Contaminated soils and sediment were treated in two low temperature continuous thermal desorption units. Contaminated condensate, shallow groundwater and storm water run-off from contaminated areas were treated in three water treatment plants. Original estimates were that approximately 145,000 tons of contaminated soils and sediment-required remediation, but additional contaminated soils were found as the cleanup progressed. A total of approximately 270,600 tons of contaminated soils and sediment were treated by the completion of RA activities in the spring of 2001. These remediated soils and sediments were backfilled into the original excavations.

Implementation of the post-closure groundwater monitoring program confirmed the effectiveness of soil remediation at the site. The monitoring wells were last sampled and tested in September 2002. These monitoring wells were abandoned during the summer of 2003. No operation and maintenance is required.

### Current Status

The site is currently undeveloped. A lien is held on the property by a financial institution. Furthermore, the State has placed a lien on the property for State costs in the cleanup.

### Planned or Potential Future Action

EPA plans to delist the SMWT site from the NPL during 2005.

### Facility Contacts

<u>Contact Name</u>	<u>Contact Organization</u>	<u>Contact Telephone #</u>
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### Site Repositories

St. Mary's County Library  
Leonardtown Branch  
23250 Hollywood Rd  
Leonardtown MD 20650